(d) what are the export target, perspective of international market; and

(e) whether Government would offer incentive for export of cotton?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government have directed cotton Corporation of India to undertake price support operations at the minimum support prices without any restriction on quantities of such purchases in all States except in Maharashtra where Monopoly Procurement Scheme is in operation. Therefore, distress sale below support price by cotton growers in Gujarat and other States does not arise.

(in lakh bales)

Expected current cotton crop	102
Carry forward stock	29·80
Domestic Consumption	99·50
Surplus	32·30

(d) Government have announced long term export policy on cotton. under which 5 lakh bales of long/extra long staple cotton, 50,000 bales each of Digvijay cotton and Bengal Deshi cotton will be exported per year on a continuous basis for three years. With an availability of 123.60 million bales, the international cotton market is expected to be easy.

(e) No proposal for offering incentives for export of cotton is under consideration.

Complaints against the Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor

751. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have received complaints from West Bengal Government against the manner in which the new Self-Employment Programme for the urban poor was launched in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, whether Government have looked into the complaints, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Presumably, the Hon. Member is referring to a reference from the State Government of West Bengal regarding the implementation of the Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP), which came into effect from 1st September, 1986. The main suggestion contained in this reference is that the banks should not refuse loan application to an individual for assistance under SEPUP irrespective of Zone-wise/Branch-wise targets. No ceiling as such the distribution of loan application forms have been laid down. Reserve Bank of India had, however, issued instruction to public sector banks stipulating that the distribution of application forms for assistance during the current financial year should be completed by 30th September, 1986.

Bill on Child Labour

752. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a draft Bill on Child labour is presently under consideration of the Cabinet;

(b) whether the proposed Bill is based on the Gurupadaswamy Committee recommendations on Child Labour, 1979;

(c) whether the Labour Ministers Conference held in July, 1985 had considered the Bill-Child Labour

(Employment) Regulation Training and Development Bill, 1985; and

(d) if so, what are the main features of the proposed Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) A Bill entitled "The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Bill, 1986" duly approved by the Cabinet was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 22-8-86. The Bill has been considered and passed by the Rajya Sabha on 5-11-86.

(b) Government have taken into consideration the recommendations of the Gurupadaswamy Committee on Child Labour, 1979, before drawing up the proposed Bill.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Bill, 1986, intends to:—

(1) ban the employment of children *i.e.* those who have not completed their fourteenth year, in specified occupations and processes;

(2) lay down a procedure to decide modifications to the Schedule of banned occupations or processes;

(3) regulate the conditions of work of children in employments where they are not prohibited from working;

(4) lay down enhanced penalties for employment of children in violation of the provisions of this Act, and other Acts which forbid the employment of children;

(5) to obtain uniformity in the definition of "child" in the related laws;

Transfer of Income-Tax Subject from Centre to the States

753. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Central Government's consideration to transfer the subject of income-tax from the Centre to the States; and

(b) if so, by when this proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Fall in Crude oil and fertilizer prices

754. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) the amount saved by Government during the current year owing to the steep fall in the international prices of crude oil and fertilizer; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to reduce the price of crude oil and fertilizers for consumption in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Imports of crude oil and fertilizers are made to meet the gap between the demand and indigenous supply. Purchases of these commodities abroad are made at different times and at prices ruling at the time of purchase. It is, therefore, not possible to make an exact estimate of the savings in the outgo of foreign exchange resulting from the downward trend in the prices of these commodities in the current year.

(b) No, Sir.